

Message Text

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40

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 DOTE-00 TRSE-00 COME-00

L-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /043 W
----- 064301

R 031445Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7582
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BLANTYRE 1595

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, EAID, PFOR, MI, SF, ZA

SUBJ: MALAWIAN RAIL LINK TO ZAMBIA

REF: A. BLANTYRE A-59 (NOTAL)

B. PRETORIA 5172 (NOTAL)

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. SIGNING LAST WEEK OF \$27 MILLION LOAN AGREEMENT BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND MALAWI FOR RAILROAD FROM LILONGWE TO ZAMBIAN BORDER CULMINATES MALAWI'S SEARCH FOR FUNDS THIS HIGH-PRIORITY PROJECT (SEE REF A). ALTHOUGH ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOT GIVEN EVIDENCE OF MUCH ENTHUSIASM FOR THIS PROJECT HERETOFORE, NOW THAT MALAWI TAKING CONCRETE IMPLEMENTATION STEPS WE ASSUME SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS WITH ZAMBIANS WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

2. NEW SOUTH AFRICAN COMMERCIAL OFFICER IN BLANTYRE TOLD EMBOFF DEC 3 THAT SOUTH AFRICA HOPING TO FINANCE AND CONSTRUCT (PRESUMABLY THROUGH ROBERTS OR OTHER S.A. FIRM) THE ZAMBIAN SEGMENT AS
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WELL. HE BELIEVES GOM IS MAKING INITIAL CONTACTS WITH GOZ

IN THEIR BEHALF. HE IS HOPEFUL MORE CORDIAL CLIMATE WHICH NOW
DEVELOPING BETWEEN ZAMBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA WILL PERMIT OPEN
ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. FYI: COMMERCIAL
OFFICER ALSO SAID HE WAS INSTRUCTED IN PRETORIA BEFORE DEPARTURE
TO MAKE EFFORT FOR SALES TO ZAMBIA "AS THEY HAVE MONEY." ADDED
SAG WOULD LIKE TO EXPAND ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH
OTHER BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO AVOID OVERCONCENTRATION ON
MALAWI.
STEVENSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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